

York County three year comprehensive  
Juvenile Services Plan  
January 1, 2009- December 30, 2011

Project Director  
Gene Bergen  
York County Courthouse  
510 Lincoln Ave.  
York, NE 68467  
(402) 724-2465

Project Coordinator  
Julie Johnson  
York County Juvenile Diversion  
York County Courthouse  
410 Lincoln Avenue  
York, NE 68467  
(402) 362-2270

Community Team Chair  
Eileen Krumbach  
2345 Nebraska Ave.  
York, NE 68467  
(402) 362-5508  
ekrumbach1@unl.edu

County Board Chair  
Augustus Brown, JR  
510 Lincoln Ave.  
York, NE 68467  
(402) 362-3692

## II. Community Team Section

### A. York County Coalition

We began to gather this team of members when the comprehensive plan began developing in 2003. We asked around in the different sectors and found that many different sectors believed in the importance of a coalition of this nature. We have met to discuss the modifications that need to be done to the current comprehensive plan, and everyone is in agreement to the goals and objectives that will be discussed in this plan. We currently meet on an as needed basis with everyone being open to discuss anything that relates to the comprehensive plan. We serve as one committee, we have no sub-committees in place at this time.

### B. Listing of the community team members, their title, address, phone numbers and e-mail addresses.

- Eileen Krumbach, UNL Extension, Extension Educator, 2345 Nebraska Ave., York, NE 68662 (402) 362-5508. [Ekrumbach1@unl.edu](mailto:Ekrumbach1@unl.edu)
- Judge Curtis Evans, York County Judge, 510 Lincoln Ave., York, NE 68467 (402) 362-5428
- Julie Johnson, York County Juvenile Diversion Coordinator, 510 Lincoln Ave., York, NE 68467 (402) 362-2270 [jdiversion@mainstaycomm.net](mailto:jdiversion@mainstaycomm.net)
- Augustus Brown, JR., York County Commissioner, 1419 Blackburn Ave., York, NE 68467, (402) 362-3692 [gb01007@windstream.net](mailto:gb01007@windstream.net)
- Barb Drake York County Head Start, 225 West 5<sup>th</sup>, York, NE 68467 (402) 362-4298
- Gene Bergen, York County Commissioner, 208 Road G, Henderson, NE (402) 724-2465
- Brian Rader, Program Director, Grace Children's Home, Henderson, (402) 723-5725 [brianrader@gracechildrenshome.com](mailto:brianrader@gracechildrenshome.com)
- Tim Sieh, York County Attorney, 510 Lincoln Ave., York, NE (402) 362-5583 [tsieh@mainstaycomm.net](mailto:tsieh@mainstaycomm.net)
- Michaela Stuhr, York High School Student, 1327 Michigan Ave., York, NE

### III. Juvenile Justice System Analysis tool:

See attached Appendix A.

### IV. Community Socio-Economics:

A. York County, with a population of 14,512, is located in southeast Nebraska. It lies between Highway 81 and Interstate 80.

#### Economics -

York County has a strong Agriculture base; followed by Hamilton-Sundstrand Aerospace- employment 230 - established 1982 - no unions - manufactures aerospace components; and Champion Home Builders Company - employment 237 - established 1960 - no union-manufactured housing.

#### Gender & Ethnicity

#### Total population Grant Area

#### Juvenile Population of Grant Area

	Number	%of total #	Number	% of total #
Male	6,974	47.8%	1988	52%
Female	7,624	52.2%	1804	48%
White	14,128	96.8%	3716	98%
Hispanic	205	1.4%	88	2%
Afro-American	140	1.0%	17	.4%
Native American	42	.3%	16	.4%
Asian	71	.4%	43	1.1%
Other				
<b>Total</b>	14,598	100%	3693	100%

\*Total figures are from U.S. Census 2000; juvenile figures are from 1999 OJJDP County Population information also, Hispanics can be any race.

#### Education -

York Public Schools, McCool Public Schools, Heartland Community Schools (Henderson and Bradshaw, Cross County Community School (Benedict), Centennial Public Schools, (Gresham, Waco and Thayer), St. Paul Lutheran School, Nebraska Lutheran High School, St. Joe Catholic School, Emmanuel Lutheran School, Larsen Christian Academy, numerous Pre-Schools, Head Start, Epworth Village, Home Schooling, distance learning for college credits from Southeast Community College and

Univ. Of Nebraska-Lincoln, York College, Community Education and York Public Alternative School.

Recreation -

Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H, Youth Community Sports, (football, baseball, softball, soccer, swimming, basketball) dance lessons, karate classes, city parks, Recharge Lake (camping and fishing), York Community Center, Church Youth Group activities, York County Fair, trap shooting, bowling, movie and video game rentals, hiking and biking trails at Beaver Creek, outdoor swimming pool and York Children's Museum.

Other variables -

York and Henderson Police Departments, York County Sheriff Department, York County Probation, HHS, Medical Clinics in York and Henderson, York General Hospital, Henderson Hospital, York County and District Court, Juvenile Holdover facility at Epworth Village, Team Mates Mentoring Program, CASA, Foster Care, counseling services, emergency shelter, Blue Valley Mental Health and Crisis Center, Foster Care Review Board, Grace Children's Home in Henderson.

York is located five miles North of I-80. Highway 81 runs directly (north/South) through the cities of McCool, York, and Benedict. Highway 34 access (East/West) to Bradshaw, Gresham, Thayer, Henderson, and Waco. There are a high number of interstate travelers utilizing the services of the city of York.

## V. Identified Priority Areas:

### A. Priority # 1

Problem: Lack of Youth oriented locations/activities

There is an overwhelming feeling from the youth that there is no place for them to go and “hang out”. We currently have an adequate Community Center that has been built and is becoming geared toward youth structured activities. We want to partner with the York County Community resources and organizations to offer some positive alternatives to teens just “hanging out” in a few local parking lots. Despite the fact that they are really not causing trouble, we do seem to have a litter problem that is dealt with consistently by law enforcement and the local business owners. We are hoping by partnering with the Community resources and organizations we can offer extended hours of operation and possible free nights for each community in York County.

## VI. Strategies:

### A. Priority # 1 Lack of Youth location/activities

We are partnering with the Community resources and organizations for alternative activities to be offered for youth. We have coordinated activities and dates with county resources organizations such as:

1. Fun Run – September, 2008
2. Girls on the Run – 5 K – May 2008
3. GOTR – each spring quarter of school
4. Family Swimming nights
5. Church group and youth organizations activities
6. Ultimate Frisbee – Youth group in Henderson
7. Summer reading program

These are just to name a few examples.

These activities are planned, but more activities are formulating for the future. The need for volunteers and youth to participate will be a community effort by the Community Comprehensive team and resources and county organizations to promote and advertise each activity.

## **Timeline**

First year – 2009

Increase participation by offering one to two new community activities.

Second year – 2010

Increase participation by offering one to two more new community activities.

Third Year – 2011

Increase participation by offering one to two more new community activities.

## B. Priority #2 & #3

Problem: Lack of Positive parental support in youths lives. (Building Resilient youth)

As a committee began to work on Juvenile Services Comprehensive Plan, it felt that the increase in juvenile criminal activity may be linked to broken or weak family unities, the lack of parental involvement or apathetic parenting. We have pursued different avenues of ways to help increase parental involvement and positive, active parenting. We currently offer Juvenile Diversion Program, TeamMates Mentoring Program, Early Head Start, Head Start, Love and Logic Parenting classes, and York County has many CASA support workers.

### Risk Factors:

- A. Chaotic home environments, particularly in which parents are apathetic about their children's activities.
- B. Ineffective parents, especially with children with difficult temperaments and conduct disorders.
- C. Lack of mutual attachments and nurturing.

### Protective Factors:

- A. Mentoring programs like TeamMates to help youth become resilient when parents and family members are apathetic.
- B. Family activities – Character Education in York County
- C. Early Childhood Education Programs – Facilitates Week of the Young Child activities. If we start sooner we will have strong families in the years to come.
- D. Family Focused organizations – 4H, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, etc.

### Gaps and Needs:

- A. Family Deterioration; no significant adult; non-church attendance, lack of family group/extended family, rate of mobility.
- B. No mentoring (TeamMates Mentoring Program) in some Communities in York County.
- C. Emergency Foster Care hard to find and keep trained eligible foster parents.
- D. More training needed for parents and foster parents; dealing with high risk youth, etc.

### Solutions

- A. Expand TeamMates mentoring Program to reach all communities in York County.
- B. Parent programs such as Parent Education/Information classes, family friendly activities within the entire county.
- C. Promote cooperation and networking among prevention resources to improve services to child, youth and families; and to increases community awareness on prevention via communications with community – based organizations.

## **Timeline**

First Year – Remainder of 2009

Juvenile Diversion Program – We will continue to run the juvenile diversion class quarterly and try to give first time juvenile offenders an alternative learning opportunity to divert them from court proceedings

TeamMates Mentoring Program - We plan to contact all the remaining schools in York County to begin the process of developing the TeamMates Mentoring Program in their school.

Early Head Start – We will hope to continue to work with the minority groups with the needs they have. These needs vary from language interpretation, to offering phone directory for certain services, and also proper safety rules and regulations. These families have several needs and can always use help but aren't always able to communicate these needs, so we hope with this program that we can offer the assistance that they need.

Second Year – 2010

TeamMates Mentoring Program – We would like to see 4 -5 matches in each school in York County.

Early Head Start will continue the same. We would hope to still help the families on an as needed basis.

Third Year 2011

Juvenile Diversion will continue the same

TeamMates Mentoring Program – We would like to see 5 -8 matches in each community in York County.

Parent Education classes would hope to increase participation by 20% of families receiving family education.

For Each program the people involved would be the agencies in the community that participate in the Juvenile Diversion class, Love and Logic Parenting classes, and the coordinator Early Head Start. This may change some depending on the agencies that have agreed to take part in the different classes, but, this is yet to be determined completely.

## **APPENDIX A - YORK COUNTY**

### **JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM ANALYSIS TOOL**

#### **(COMMUNITY PLANNING DECISION POINT ANALYSIS)**

The Juvenile Justice System Analysis Tool (Tool) was developed by the Juvenile Justice Institute at the University of Nebraska at Omaha in conjunction with the Nebraska Crime Commission to assist in County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Planning.

The Tool consists of twelve areas of decision points that make up the formal juvenile justice system in Nebraska. Various factors are present at each decision point—often times changing from year to year based on state or county dynamics within the system such as changes in policies, programs, and/or personnel.

There are formal factors dictating certain decision points in the system, such as statutory authority. In addition, each county or community has unique factors surrounding certain decision points within the local county juvenile justice system. Identifying such informal factors helps to understand and assess juvenile justice needs and issues in individual locales.

Available data might also inform the factors surrounding a data point. Anecdotal data might be compared with statistical data, for example, to assess the true state of the system. County data is assessed when applying the Tool where applicable.

#### **York County**

A York County Comprehensive Plan meeting was held December 2008. Those present included local representatives from Juvenile Diversion, the York County Extension office, the York County Commission (a member and the Chairperson), the York County Attorney's Office, and the Henderson Group Home—Grace Children's Home.

Each of the twelve decision points were discussed as they relate to the juvenile justice system in York County.

The following analysis names the decision point and states any *noteworthy* issue identified or problem acknowledged at the particular stage, particularly since the last application of the Tool for York County. Not all decision points are commented on. An assessment of the York County data has been completed as part of applying the Tool. Such data is referenced throughout this report when necessary to fully analyze a certain decision point.

**NEBRASKA JUVENILE COURT REPORT - YORK COUNTY**  
**(Nebraska Crime Commission)**

	2005	2006	2007
<b>ARRESTS</b>	180	186	191
<b>OFFENSES</b>			
1st/2nd Degree Assault	0	0	0
3rd Degree Assault	5	2	3
Sexual Assault - 1st	0	0	0
Sexual Assault - 2nd	0	0	0
Burglary	0	2	5
Drug - Felony	0	0	0
Theft > \$1500	1	0	0
Theft < \$1500	3	1	0
Theft < \$500	0	0	1
Theft < \$200	4	6	7
Crim Mischief - Felony	0	0	0
Crim Mischief - Misd	6	5	2
Major Trespass	0	1	4
Forgery - Misd - Major	0	1	0
Weapon - Misd	0	0	0
Disturbing Peace	1	0	3
Other Felony	0	2	1
Other Misdemeanor	14	17	12
Curfew	0	1	5
Truancy	0	0	1
Ungovernable Behavior	5	6	4
Possession of Alcohol	4	7	6
Other Status	2	0	0
Neglect	31	16	28
Dependent	3	1	4
Other/Unknown	5	13	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>95</b>

## **York County Data**

Juvenile court offense data for York County is provided for years 2005, 2006, and 2007 (Juvenile Court Reporting—Nebraska Crime Commission)<sup>1</sup>. Arrest numbers for each year represent arrests made of 0 – 17 year-olds in each of the counties.

In 2007, according to OJJDP at <http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/ojstatbb/exapop/>, York County had a juvenile population (ages 0 – 17 years old) of 3,256, with 3,102 white, 96 black, 19 American Indian, and 39 Asian. In addition, 215 were identified as Hispanic and 3,041 Non-Hispanic.

---

<sup>1</sup>

### **Juvenile Court Reporting (JCR)**

The Nebraska Crime Commission's Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) collects information from the courts on juveniles processed through the juvenile justice system. Approximately 8,000 juvenile cases a year receive final disposition or judgment which are reported to the Crime Commission by paper forms and by the computerized court system JUSTICE. Various statistics are compiled from these data by the SAC for use in juvenile justice planning. Data are provided back to local and state agencies, policy makers, the courts, [National Center for Juvenile Justice](#) and federal [Bureau of Justice Statistics](#).

### **Nebraska Juvenile Court Data Set**

Juvenile court information has been submitted to the Crime Commission on an ongoing basis for over 20 years. When a case reaches a disposition, meaning finality with concern to the court proceedings, a data collection form is completed and forwarded to the Crime Commission. The reported information is collected within the county court or by the probation office. These data typically include cases which have been handled with a formal petition having been filed. The statistics reported here by the Crime Commission only contain information on cases handled through a formal petition. The terms, cases, petitions and referrals may all be used to describe the same group of juveniles processed. This does not necessarily represent all cases filed in juvenile court during those times; rather only those that received final a disposition or judgment. Information on pending cases is not included.

### **Decision Points:**

#### **Arrest/Citation (Police/Law Enforcement)**

*Whether an information report should be filed, or what offense, if any, under which juvenile should be cited or arrested*

*Whether to cite or arrest juvenile for juvenile or adult*

*Whether to take juvenile into custody or to cite and release*

Notes:

Usually youth having contact with law enforcement in York County are not taken into custody, but are taken home to a responsible parent or guardian. If detention is required, Lancaster County Juvenile Detention is utilized.

#### **Initial Detention (Probation)**

*Whether juvenile should be detained or released*

#### **Charge Juvenile (County Attorney)**

*Whether to prosecute juvenile*

Notes:

First time, nonviolent, non-felony juvenile offenders are referred to the York County Juvenile Diversion program. The program is an 8 week class for the parents and the youth.

In terms of prosecution in York County, the younger the offender, the more difficult the case is. HHS is least willing to get involved when the offender is very young.

A significant number of juvenile cases prosecuted come from the group home in York where a majority of the kids are from Lancaster County, Douglas County, or from out-of-state. Many of these are assault cases. Depending on the situation, disposition may be transferred to the home jurisdiction.

*Whether youth should be prosecuted as juvenile or adult*

*Offense(s) for which juvenile should be charged*

**Pre-Adjudication Detention** (Juvenile Court Judge)

*Whether juvenile detained at the time of citation/arrest should continue in detention or out-of-home placement pending adjudication*

Notes:

As above, it is unusual that detention is utilized or needed.

**Probable Cause Hearing** (Juvenile Court Judge)

*Whether State can show that probable cause exists that juvenile is within the jurisdiction of the court*

**Competency Evaluation** (Juvenile Court Judge)

*Whether juvenile is competent to participate in the proceedings*

*Whether juvenile is “responsible” for his/her acts*

Notes:

Age of the youth is difficult when an offense is committed by someone very young. A guardian ad litem is appointed in such cases to assist in determining the appropriate action.

**Adjudication** (Juvenile Court Judge)

*Whether juvenile is, beyond a reasonable doubt, “a person described by §43-247”*

*Whether to order probation to conduct a pre-disposition investigation (PDI)*

Notes:

PDI's are usually ordered in juvenile cases because the goal is rehabilitative rather than punishment. A PDI is the only way to get a real feel for the family, the circumstances, how the family functions, and the needs for the family.

***Whether to order OJS evaluation***

Notes:

OJS evaluations are ordered on a case by case determination.

***Whether to order a PDI and an OJS evaluation***

Notes:

Both a PDI and an OJS evaluation are never ordered together in York County. The juvenile court starts with ordering a PDI. If Probation does not feel like it can help, then an OJS evaluation is requested.

**Disposition** (Juvenile Court Judge)

***Whether to place juvenile on probation***

Notes:

The court usually follows the PDI recommendation.

Probation keeps the juvenile on supervision as long as they can. If problems arise, the County Attorney and Probation have discussions to decide the best route to follow.

***Whether to commit juvenile to the Office of Juvenile Services (OJS)***

Notes:

The main question for this decision point is whether the child needs to be removed from the home. If the child should not remain in the home, there is nothing Probation can provide. Also, if the only way for the youth to receive the needed services is through OJS, then that weighs heavily in the determination.

***Whether to place juvenile on probation and commit juvenile to HHS or OJS***

## **Administrative Sanctions (Probation)**

### ***Whether to impose administrative sanctions***

Notes:

Probation has electronic monitoring when needed, but there is not a tracker service available through Probation. If a tracker is needed, the service is only available through OJS.

## **Motion to Revoke Probation (County Attorney)**

### ***Whether to file a motion to revoke probation***

Notes:

One of the most significant factors in making this determination is whether the needed services are available through OJS.

## **Modification/Revocation of Probation (Juvenile Court Judge)**

### ***Whether to modify or revoke probation***

Notes:

The judge makes this decision based on updated report from the Probation officer. More modifications occur in juvenile court than in adult court. Usually if it gets to a point of revocation, something significant is going on and more help is needed for the youth.

## **Setting Aside Adjudication (Juvenile Court Judge)**

### ***Whether juvenile has satisfactorily completed his or her probation and supervision or the treatment program of his or her commitment***

### ***Whether juvenile should be discharged from custody and supervision of OJS***

### **Summary:**

York County juvenile justice professionals and interested community members are a very committed group, working together to address the needs of youth across the continuum of services—from prevention to diversion to sanctions.

Several prevention-type programs exist in York County. Teammates is in York, but not the rest of the communities in the County. There are efforts to get Teammates in to some of the other communities. There is a very active 4H and Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts in the county.

SKIP teams are within the schools—identifying kids with issues to prevent things from getting worse. The families are brought in to figure out issues going on with the youth and within the family and what services might be available.

Working with parents is an important issue in York County. Headstart and Early Headstart (just beginning this year) try to work with parents very early—when the child is very young. Headstart holds family nights so parents can be involved and educated. Love and logic classes are important to provide to parents.